

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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GOODIN AMENDS BILL TO INCLUDE DEATH SENTENCE FOR CHILD MURDERERS

INDIANAPOLIS -- State Rep. Terry Goodin (D-Crothersville) wants to make sure that a person convicted of murdering a child is punished with the most extreme measures that the state has to offer.

House Bill 1746 will have added language that will make the death penalty mandatory for anyone convicted of murdering a person under the age of 18 with aggravating circumstances. These aggravating circumstances are committing or attempting to commit child molestation; criminal deviate conduct; kidnapping; rape; or criminal confinement.

"Anyone who willfully and purposefully murders a child shows that they have absolutely no regard for life," said Goodin. "I feel that a person who shows this should be given the most severe punishment possible under law."

The state currently has the option of either sentencing someone convicted for murder with aggravating circumstances with either life in prison or the death penalty.

Since 1977, 92 people have been sentenced to death in Indiana. Eleven have been executed.

House Bill 1746 also deals with sex offender registration. If passed, it will require that neighborhood associations be added to the list of entities that must periodically receive the sex and violent offender directory published by the criminal justice department.

House Bill 1746 will be presented in front of the whole House for final consideration.